



National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems

Building Capacity Using Family-Centered Approaches to Promote the Best Life for Young Children with Disabilities: An Innovative Family-to-Family Program

Summary of a webinar from February 26, 2020

Introduction

This webinar talked about family-centered practices. It is important to help families of young children with disabilities prepare for the future. When children are very young, parents must do what is best for them. As children grow up the, goal is for them to have more choice and control.

Presenters talked about *Now and Next*. It is an international program based in Australia. This program supports families of young children with disabilities. The program is family-led. It works with support from professionals and other families to:

- Build on strengths
- Learn skills
- Create a vision and goals

They studied the program. They found it had a good impact on the families who went through it.

Personal Stories

Mohammed from New Zealand talked about how Now and Next helped his family come up with small goals to help his Autistic son. It helped them feel empowered. He now gives support to other families.

Mohammed says, “We started to measure and celebrate our success.
We started to have fun as a family!”

Gareth from British Columbia talked about the Kinsight program. Kinsight provides services to youth with disabilities and their families. They trained all staff on *Pictability*. It is a Now and Next planning tool. They saw a change in staff’s hopefulness in their approach.






Clayton from Australia talked about the difference between setting goals and having a vision. He learned to play an active role in planning for their family. He also talked about how his son is part of his community.

Clayton says, “I learned the importance of working together as a family to set our destination and goals.”



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The speakers on this webinar were:

	<p>Dr. Annick Janson is a New Zealand-based clinical psychologist and researcher, focusing on changing the disability sector through family collective leadership. She was awarded a Gallup International Positive Psychology Fellowship. Annick co-founded the evidence-based 'Now and Next' positive parenting program in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Europe. She raises a young adult with special gifts.</p>
	<p>Clayton Buffoni has a rather diverse past. Former Stage Writer and Director in the UK, Journalist in the Middle East and National Business Development Manager in the Australian and NZ wine industry. Currently, Business Development Consultant to Plumtree Learning. One part of a neurodivergent family of three, a member of the Reframing Disability Board and a Now and Next Alumni member.</p>
	<p>Gareth Williams is currently the Director of Family and Children's Services at the Canadian-based Kinsight Community Society. He's interested in finding new ways to enhance family engagement and build family leadership in the early childhood intervention sector. When not working, he spends as much time outdoors as he can on his skis, bike or hiking boots.</p>
	<p>Mohammed Hussaini's whanau (family) consists of a very supportive wife and 3 amazing children. Though born in India, more than a decade ago we chose New Zealand as our home. Two years ago, our second child was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and we were one of the first families to be enrolled in Now and Next's NZ program. I work as an IS Architect, and both my wife and I are trained as Now and Next peer facilitators.</p>
	<p>Sylvana Mahmic is CEO of Plumtree Australia with 28 years' experience in the early childhood intervention field. She is co-creator Now and Next , promotes peer work and has incubated two new peer led organisations. She is completing her PhD on individualised funding and supports her son to self-manage his funding.</p>